

Voting Information News

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A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)

For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

*Federal Voting Assistance
Program
U.S. Department of Defense*

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ATTENTION ALL VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS...

The FVAP has prepared new materials for the 2008 elections. Along with distribution of the 2008-09 *Voting Assistance Guide* (see last issue of this newsletter) and the Election Dates Poster, the FVAP has released a new motivational poster.

The FVAP has produced the motivational poster for Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs). The poster is designed to remind voters of upcoming elections and to motivate them to register and vote. VAOs should display the posters in places where they will be seen by large numbers of persons to help promote voting participation. The motivational poster is approximately 17" x 12".

The Election Dates Poster provides space for VAO's contact information. VAOs are encouraged to affix their contact information on the motivational posters as well.

Your Service Voting Action Officer can provide further instructions for ordering other absentee voting materials for your Service/organization (i.e., FPCAs, FWABs, pamphlets, and election calendar). Know what your normal supply channels are, and be prepared by having these materials on hand.

ELECTION DATES 2008

The chart on the listing the 2008 State primary and general election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); states with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election; and Gubernatorial races cannot be properly formatted via email in a text format. Please refer to the [to see a copy of this chart](#).

THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT

The most common barrier that citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) encounter when voting absentee is insufficient ballot transit time. Many citizens are located in remote areas around the world where mail is not delivered or picked up on a regular basis (such as sailors and marines aboard ship, and Peace Corps workers, missionaries, airmen, sailors and soldiers at remote sites).

The FWAB is pre-positioned overseas as a "back-up" ballot should a citizen not receive his or her regular ballot from the state or territory in enough time to meet state deadlines for counting. Under Federal provisions, a U.S. citizen may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote for Federal offices in the general election if that citizen meets all three of the following conditions:

1. The citizen must be either an absent Uniformed Services voter absent from his/her voting residence or be a citizen outside the U.S. including APO/FPO.
2. The citizen must make a timely ballot request, and submit the FPCA or other state accepted form to their state of legal voting residence requesting a state absentee ballot. The appropriate Local Election Official receives their request at least 30 days before the election or before the ballot request deadline, whichever is later.
3. The citizen has not received the regular state absentee ballot.

In summary, the FWAB is an emergency ballot, only valid when a U.S. citizen makes a timely ballot request for the General Election; is an absent Uniformed Service voter away from his/her voting residence or a citizen located outside the U.S. including APO/FPO and the requested absentee ballot has not been received from the state or territory.

HOW TO USE THE FWAB

If eligible to use this ballot, the citizen may indicate their election choices for Federal offices in the general election. To vote this blank write-in ballot, citizens may vote for a candidate by writing in the candidate's name or writing in the name of a party affiliation (if the intention of a voter can be ascertained, the candidate/party choices will be accepted). The FWAB is similar to the regular state absentee ballot as it includes a security envelope and a mailing envelope.

Complete the voter's declaration/affirmation according to the instruction on the front cover sheet, sign, date and include witness if needed by your state. Vote the official Federal Write-In ballot by writing in the candidate's name or political party designation. Some states permit you to vote for other offices in the space provided. Place only the voted ballot in the security envelope and seal.

FWABs are available worldwide at U.S. embassies and consulates, military installations and overseas organizations and corporations with U.S. citizens.

Some states have legislatively expanded its use beyond the Federal law to include use in Federal elections other than general elections and/or voting for offices other than Federal offices. Refer to Chapter 3 of the Guide to determine whether your state has expanded use of the FWAB. Military and overseas citizens should use the FWAB when the election is rapidly approaching and insufficient time exists to receive, vote and timely return the requested state ballot. A sample FWAB with instructions can be found in Chapter 2 of the 2006-07 *Guide* (in PDF version) and in Appendix G of the 2008-09 *Guide*.

MASSACHUSETTS SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY ELECTION

On September 4, 2007 there will be a special primary election in Massachusetts' 5th Congressional District to fill the seat of Representative Martin T. Meehan. The winners of this special primary election will compete in a special general election to be held on October 16, 2007.

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are Massachusetts residents from the 5th District should request a ballot for this special primary election by completing and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76, as soon as possible, if you have not done so already in calendar year 2007.

The online version of the FPCA and specific instruction for Massachusetts are available from the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov.

Registration is waived for Massachusetts citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. To request an absentee ballot, the local registrar of voters must receive your FPCA or any other form of written communication with your name, date of birth, former residence and present residence not later than noon the day before the election.

You may submit the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. After faxing, you must submit the FPCA by mail so that it arrives by September 4 in order to have your ballot counted. Use the following toll-free fax numbers for the U.S. and Canada: 1-800-368-8683, (703) 693-5527 or DSN 223-5527 (military). Additional toll-free fax numbers from overseas countries numbers available at www.fvap.gov/services/faxing.html

For additional information about this special election, visit www.fvap.gov. Also, state specific information on your precinct, candidates, elections, and voting is available at the Massachusetts Secretary of State website, www.sec.state.ma.us/ele.

VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICERS "TO DO" THIS MONTH:

- Start planning your 2008 voter training sessions now so that you can assist voters from states with early primary elections. Check for the dates of the elections in the Election Calendar, soon to be available at the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov,
- Check your inventory of absentee voting materials to determine what you may need to perform your duties as a VAO. Do not forget to include family members when determining the quantity of voting supplies needed.
- Check with your Service Voting Action Officer for a schedule of voting workshops coming to your installation or geographic region.
- Now is the time to generate interest in the 2008 elections. Use the local media to inform citizens of the upcoming election calendar, especially those states that will hold early primary elections.

VOTING ACTION OFFICERS

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e-mail: votinginfo@state.gov

World Wide Web: usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections.html

Service Voting Action Officers

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World Wide Web: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

Dept. of the Navy: LT Dave Truman, USN

tel: 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672)(select option 6 from menu), fax: (901) 874-6825, DSN fax: 882-6825

e-mail: vote@navy.mil

World Wide Web:

www.cni.navy.mil/cnic_hq_site/BaseSupport/CommandStaff/NavyVotingProgram/index.htm

Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. Gilbert D. Harrison

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DSN 665-5000; fax: (210) 565-2543, DSN fax: 665-2543;

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World Wide Web: www.afcrossroads.com/VoteFund/Vote/default.htm

Marine Corps: Mr. David E. James

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World Wide Web: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting>

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World Wide Web: www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

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TOLL FREE:

1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for international toll-free phone and fax numbers.

E-Mail:

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Comments or suggestions on this newsletter are welcome.

We're on the Web!

www.fvap.gov

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